

Appl. No. : 10/647,369  
Filed : August 25, 2003

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

--[0076] As such, the input shaft 88 is not supported only by the crankshaft. Rather, the input shaft 88 is rotatably supported by the crankcase 74. Thus, the bending loads applied to the input shaft through the interaction of the drive belt 96 and the drive pulley 90 are not transferred to the crankshaft 76. Rather, such bending loads are imparted to the bearings 170, 172. Additionally, because the drive member 216 is coupled with the driven member 218 within the crankcase 74, the coupling device 32 is protected from the environment in which the snowmobile 20 is operated.--